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24 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
25
26 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
27
28 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

REDDIT, INC.,
Plaintiff,

v.

ANTHROPIC PBC,
Defendant.

Case No. 3:25-cv-05643

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION
TO UNITED STATES DISTRICT
COURT**

[San Francisco County Superior Court
Case No. CGC-25-625892]

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1 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338, 1441, 1446, and
2 1454, Defendant Anthropic PBC hereby removes this action, Case No. CGC-25-625892—with
3 reservation of all defenses and rights—from the Superior Court of the County of San Francisco,
4 California, to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California on the
5 following grounds:

6 **STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

7 1. On June 4, 2025, Reddit, Inc. filed suit against Anthropic in the Superior Court of
8 the State of California, San Francisco County, in *Reddit, Inc. v. Anthropic, PBC*, Case No. CGC-
9 25-625892. (Exhibit A, Complaint and Jury Demand.) Reddit is a social media website
10 delivering an “online discussion platform” for purportedly over 100 million users. (Compl. ¶ 3.)
11 Anthropic is an artificial intelligence safety and research company developing reliable,
12 interpretable, and steerable artificial intelligence systems, including a family of large language
13 models named Claude. (See Compl., ¶¶ 23–25.)

14 2. In its Complaint, Reddit asserts five causes of action against Anthropic: 1) breach
15 of contract; 2) unjust enrichment; 3) trespass to chattels; 4) tortious interference with contract;
16 and 5) unfair competition under California’s Business and Professional Code section 17200. (*Id.*,
17 ¶¶ 64–96.)

18 3. All of Reddit’s causes of action are based on its allegation that Anthropic
19 improperly “scraped” the “posts” of Reddit users without authorization and used that content for
20 “commercial gain” in support of its development of the artificial intelligence product offering,
21 “Claude.” (*Id.*, ¶¶ 7, 46, 61, 69–70, 73, 77, 87, 93.) Reddit asserts that Anthropic’s alleged
22 conduct violates Sections 3, 5, and 7 of the Reddit User Agreement, which together purportedly
23 prohibit data scraping and the use of Reddit content for commercial gain, and further permit
24 Reddit users to retain ownership rights over their posts. (*Id.*, ¶¶ 27–28, 30–31.)

25 **GROUND FOR REMOVAL**

26 4. Anthropic removes this action based on federal question jurisdiction under 28
27 U.S.C. § 1338, which confers exclusive jurisdiction to federal district courts over “any Act of
28 Congress relating to . . . copyrights.” 28 U.S.C. § 1338(a); *see also* 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (providing

1 federal district courts with “original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the Constitution,
2 laws, or treaties of the United States”). Removal is appropriate under 28 U.S.C. § 1454, which
3 authorizes removal of any “claim for relief arising under any Act of Congress relating to . . .
4 copyrights” to federal district court. 28 U.S.C. § 1454(a); *see also* 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a) (removal
5 appropriate for any action over which federal district courts have “original jurisdiction”).

6 5. Reddit frames its five causes of action as arising under California state law, but
7 four of them are not qualitatively different from rights protected by copyright, for the reasons
8 discussed below. Therefore, they are preempted by the federal Copyright Act under 17 U.S.C. §
9 301(a). *See Daniher v. Pixar Animation Studios*, No. 22-cv-00372-BLF, 2022 WL 1470480, at
10 *4 (N.D. Cal. May 10, 2022) (holding that a state law claim is preempted under 17 U.S.C. §
11 301(a) where “(1) it pertains to a work within the subject matter of copyright under Sections 102
12 and 103 and (2) it asserts ‘legal or equitable rights that are equivalent to any of the exclusive
13 rights within the general scope of copyright under Section 106.’” (citing *Montz v. Pilgrim Films*
14 *& Television, Inc.*, 649 F.3d 975, 979 (9th Cir. 2011))).

15 6. Each of Reddit’s causes of action is predicated on allegations that Anthropic
16 accessed and reproduced content hosted on Reddit without authorization as part of developing
17 training materials for Anthropic’s Claude. (Compl., ¶¶ 7, 46, 61, 69–70, 73, 77, 87, 93.) The
18 content at the heart of all of Reddit’s causes of action is Reddit user-generated content. This
19 content includes written stories, links, images, polls, and videos that Reddit users post online, (*Id.*,
20 ¶¶ 18–20). Reddit does not purport to own this content and is instead only a nonexclusive
21 licensee. (*See* Exhibit A to Compl. at § 5 (“You retain any ownership rights you have in Your
22 Content but you grant Reddit the following [non-exclusive] license to use that Content”). But
23 removal is still warranted, because all of this subject matter is the type of content protected by the
24 Copyright Act. *See Best Carpet Values, Inc. v. Google, LLC*, 90 F.4th 962, 972 (9th Cir. 2024)
25 (holding that the nature of the rights at issue, not the nature of the complained of action is the
26 focus of the preemption analysis); *see also Yu v. ByteDance Inc.*, No. 23-cv-03503-SI, 2023 WL
27 5671932, at *6 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 1, 2023) (holding that online videos fall within the subject matter
28 of the Copyright Act as “other audiovisual works”); *Craigslist Inc. v. 3Taps Inc.*, 942 F. Supp. 2d

1 962, 971 (N.D. Cal. 2013) (holding that posts on classified advertisement website sufficiently
2 original to fall within the subject matter of the Copyright Act).

3 7. The rights that Reddit seeks to vindicate through four of its causes of action are
4 equivalent to rights protected under the Copyright Act and do not contain any “extra elements”
5 that would avoid preemption. *See Yu v. ByteDance Inc.*, 2023 WL 5671932, at *4 (“To survive
6 preemption, a state cause of action must protect rights that are qualitatively different from the
7 rights protected by copyright: the complaint must allege an ‘extra element’ that changes the
8 nature of the action.” (quoting *Grosso v. Miramax Film Corp.*, 383 F.3d 965, 968 (9th Cir.
9 2004))). For example, Reddit’s claim for unjust enrichment is based exclusively on Reddit’s
10 assertion that Anthropic used Reddit users’ content without permission or compensation. (*See*
11 *Compl.* ¶¶ 72–74.) But this amounts to “little more than camouflage for an attempt to exercise
12 control over the exploitation of a copyright.” *See X Corp. v. Bright Data Ltd.*, 733 F. Supp. 3d
13 832, 853 (N.D. Cal. 2024) (quoting *In re Jackson*, 972 F.3d 25, 38 (2d Cir. 2020)) (holding that
14 the Copyright Act preempted state law claims—including unjust enrichment—based on scraping
15 and selling of data). In *Daniher*, the court held that a similar claim for unjust enrichment,
16 predicated on unauthorized use of a copyrighted work in the defendant’s movie, was not
17 “qualitatively different from copyright claims,” and was therefore preempted. *See Daniher*, 2022
18 WL 1470480 at *4. Numerous other courts have held that analogous state law claims for unjust
19 enrichment based on unauthorized use of copyrightable material are preempted by federal
20 law. *See, e.g., Best Carpet Values Inc.*, 90 F.4th at 972–73 (holding that unjust enrichment claim
21 was preempted by the Copyright Act); *Daniher*, 2022 WL 1470480 at *4 (collecting cases).

22 8. While federal preemption of one state cause of action is sufficient to justify
23 removal of Reddit’s entire Complaint, *see id.*, Reddit’s claims for breach of contract, tortious
24 interference with contract, and at least portions of its unfair competition claim under California
25 Business & Professions Code § 17200 are also premised on its allegations that Anthropic scraped
26 Reddit content without authorization and that Reddit suffered damages as a result. (*See Compl.*
27 ¶¶ 64–71, 83–96.) No extra elements are alleged and therefore, these claims are preempted by
28 federal law as well. *See Firoozye v. Earthlink Network*, 153 F. Supp. 2d 1115, 1126 (N.D. Cal.

2001) (finding breach of contract claim preempted where plaintiff “only asserts that defendant violated a promise not to use a certain work. . . .”); *Media.net Advert. FZ-LLC v. NetSeer, Inc.*, 156 F. Supp. 3d 1052, 1072 (N.D. Cal. 2016) (tortious interference with contract claim preempted by Copyright Act); *Yu*, 2023 WL 5671932, at *6 (unfair competition claim preempted by Copyright Act).

PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

9. Removal to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California is proper because it “embrac[es]” the City and County of San Francisco, the “place where [this] action is pending.” 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a).

10. This Notice of Removal is timely, because Anthropic was served with Reddit’s Complaint on June 6, 2025. *See* Exhibit B; *see also* 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(2)(B) (“Each defendant shall have 30 days after receipt by or service on that defendant of the initial pleading or summons . . . to file the notice of removal.”).

11. Anthropic will promptly serve written notice of this Notice of Removal on Reddit and will also file a copy with all its attachments and proof of service with the Clerk of the Superior Court of the State of California, San Francisco County, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d).

BASED ON ALL OF THE ABOVE, Anthropic removes this action, in *Reddit, Inc. v. Anthropic, PBC*, Case No. CGC-25-625892, from the Superior Court of the County of San Francisco, California, to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

Dated: July 3, 2025

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP

By: /s/ Ragesh K. Tangri
Ragesh K. Tangri

Attorneys for Defendant
ANTHROPIC PBC